

Message Text

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ORIGIN CU-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-06 ISO-00 USIA-12 /024 R

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APPROVED BY CU/EE:YRICHMOND

USIA/IEE:GCALLAWAY

EUR/EE:WSHEPARD

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R 251414Z JUL 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SOFIA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, BU (SLAVKOV, IVAN AND TOMOV, TOMA)

SUBJECT: IVP GRANTEES SLAVKOV AND TOMOV

REF: SOFIA 1193

1. SLAVKOV AND TOMOV SCHEDULED ARRIVE SOFIA FRIDAY, JULY 26
AT 2030 HOURS VIA BALKAN AIR 130 FROM PARIS.

2. IN WASHINGTON, SLAVKOV AND TOMOV MET WITH DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY ARMITAGE; DEPUTY DIRECTOR KOPP AND OTHER USIA OFFICIALS; AND WITH OFFICIALS PUBLIC BROADCASTING SYSTEM. ALSO ATTENDED PERFORMANCE AT ARENA STAGE AND VISITED MUSEUMS. BULGARIAN AMBASSADOR POPOV HELD RECEPTION IN SLAVKOV'S HONOR DURING HIS DC STAY.

3. DURING TWO-DAY STAY IN LOS ANGELES, SLAVKOV AND TOMOV VISITED AFI FILM ACADEMY, LOS ANGELES COUNTY MUSEUM, AND LOCKHEED AIRCRAFT PLANT. THREE DAYS IN SAN FRANCISCO INCLUDED MEETING WITH C.M. VAN VLERDEN, EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT, BANK OF AMERICA; VISIT TO KQED TV (ONE OF OLDEST EDUCATIONAL TV STATIONS IN US); AND SIGHTSEEING.

4. IN NEW YORK THEY MET WITH PETER GREER, EXECUTIVE DIR-
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ECTOR, USSR/EE BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT DIVISION, CHASE MAN-

HATTAN BANK; AND WITH WALTER CRONKITE.

5. DUE TO SHORTNESS OF VISIT, ITINERARY DID NOT PROVIDE AS MUCH IN-DEPTH PROGRAMMING AS WE WOULD HAVE WISHED, NOR COULD VISITS TO WORKERS' HOUSING AS SUGGESTED BY EMBASSY BE ARRANGED. PROGRAM CONTENT MIGHT HAVE BENEFITED APPRECIABLY IF DEPARTMENT ESCORT HAD ACCOMPANIED SLAVKOV, WHICH HE DID NOT DESIRE. FOR FUTURE VISITS UNDER IV PROGRAM, DEPARTMENT WOULD SUGGEST EMBASSY MAKE POINT TO BULGARIANS THAT WITH ESCORT THEY WILL MAKE BETTER USE OF LIMITED TIME IN US AND WILL GET MORE OUT OF VISIT. WHILE SLAVKOV'S IMPRESSIONS OF US MAY UNDERSTANDABLY BE SOMEWHAT SUPERFICIAL, REPORTS FROM CITIES HE VISITED INDICATE THAT HE WAS PLEASED WITH PROGRAM, ALTHOUGH SOMEWHAT TIRED BY TRAVEL. TOMOV, HOWEVER, AFTER MORE THAN FOUR MONTHS IN US RETURNS HOME WITH GOOD IN-DEPTH KNOWLEDGE OF US AND WITH EXCELLENT CONTACTS IN US MEDIA. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 JUL 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE161422
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: MRBRANDT:K
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740201-1174
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740717/aaaaaono.tel
Line Count: 78
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN CU
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: SOFIA 1193
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <11 APR 2002 by elyme>; APPROVED <27 JUN 2002 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: IVP GRANTEES SLAVKOV AND TOMOV
TAGS: OEXC, BU, (SLAVKOV, IVAN), (TOMOV, TOMA)
To: SOFIA
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005